

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

It has been estimated that the individual American throws away from one to two pounds of refuse daily. In urban areas the total weight of discarded materials is approximately twice as much, on a per capita basis, due to the rubbish and garbage from commercial establishments.¹

Because in an urban area the volume of refuse is so great and the need for disposal so imperative, the municipality has traditionally performed this service for its residents.

Residents of Southern Pines are provided with this service by the town. No area outside the town is served by the municipality except the Sandhills Community College. The college has a contract with the town by which it reimburses the town for this service.

Refuse collection and disposal are under the Street and Sanitation Department. The town is divided into two sections, one east and one west of highway U. S. 1, for collection purposes. Two crews of three men each provide twice-weekly collection in the residential sections of town. In commercial areas, collection is provided three times weekly.

In addition to refuse (garbage and rubbish), street and yard rakings are collected upon request. Town ordinances require that refuse and rubbish be stored in a water tight container at the rear of lots. Street and yard rakings are collected at the curb. Refuse and rubbish are picked up at the rear of residences or businesses. Yard and street rakings are picked up on a weekly schedule.

Operation

Southern Pines uses the garbage-train refuse collection system. Under this system, especially built trailers are towed

¹ Refuse Disposal by Sanitary Landfill, Special Bulletin No. 479, North Carolina Board of Health, 1965, p. 1.